

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. The Non-Final Office Action dated January 17, 2006 (the “OA”) indicates that Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10-13, and 19 are rejected. Claims 3, 6-9, and 14-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To expedite issuance of allowable claims, and reserving the right to file a continuation, independent Claims 1, 10, and 19 are amended to include a limitation of an allowable claim. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-13, and 15-19 are also amended to spell out an acronym and/or to correct antecedent basis. Claim 3 is cancelled. Applicants submit that the claims are patentable as discussed below.

**Interview Summary**

A telephone interview summary was mailed concurrently with the OA. A telephone interview followed Applicants’ multiple attempts to call the Examiner previously assigned to the above-identified application. Because of personnel moves at the US Patent Office (USPTO), the above-identified application was eventually reassigned and the telephone interview was held with the above-identified Examiner on December 19, 2005. Due to the USPTO error and delay, the interview summary confirms that a prior non-final office action, mailed September 30, 2005, incorrectly cited prior art relied upon in the rejections. Consequently, the USPTO issued the OA and reset the time for response.

**Claim Objections**

The OA indicates that Claims 3, 6-9 and 14-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent Claims 1, 10, and 19 are amended to include a limitation of allowable Claim 3.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10-13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lupien (US 6,463,055) in view of Marcovici et al. (“Global Authentication,” Lucent

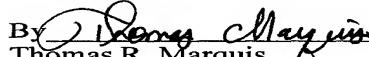
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Technologies TIA TR-56 Committee white paper, November 1999, hereafter "Marcovici"). Without conceding a limitation to the scope of the invention, independent Claims 1, 10, and 19 are amended to include the limitation of allowable Claim 3. The amendment is made to expedite allowance of the allowable claims, and subject to a right to file a continuation during the pendency of this application. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 10, and 19 are patentable for the same reasons as allowable Claim 3. In addition, it is well established that dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend. Accordingly, dependent Claims 2, 4, 5, and 11-13 are patentable for the same reasons as corresponding independent Claims 1 and 10.

In view of the above amendments, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: June 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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